Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

December 1994/January 1995

Staffing a display table at the NCC meeting about homosexuality and Christianity are, from left, Revs. Dexter Brecht, Carolyn Mobley, Maggie Tanis and Kittredge Cherry.

UFMCC Confronts Unsure Middle

The "unsure middle" that enables the radical religious right to attack lesbians and gays was confronted by UFMCC at the U.S. National Council of Churches meeting in New Orleans, LA, Nov. 9-12.

"You are responsible for the deaths of my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters because they come to you and they get indecision," Rev. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice, told NCC leaders who attended a forum on the radical right sponsored by UFMCC at the NCC meeting. "If I had my say I'd never step into the halls of the NCC for one more word of dialogue. *Never!* I'd go to the community. Every conversation with you is a conversation I lose with my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters who are dying."

More than 50 people, including NCC General Secretary Joan Campbell, attended the forum on the right, where Rev. White was the keynote speaker. The forum was co-sponsored by a coalition of lesbian/gay caucus of NCC member denominations.

Rev. White first detailed the threat of the radical right, but reserved his anger for what he termed "the unsure middle." He compared the NCC, which has still never voted on UFMCC's 1981 membership application, to U.S. President Clinton and his sacrifice of gays and lesbians in the military for "a greater good."

"I'm not sure if the NCC is the greater good," Rev. Campbell said in response to Rev. White.

The UFMCC delegation to the NCC was led by Rev. Kittredge Cherry, national ecumenical officer, and included Rev. White;

(see UFMCC Confronts, page 6)

Australia is Affordable

The latest information on airfares and hotel rates supports the decision of the 1993 General Conference to hold the 1997 conference in Australia.

"The dream of General Conference in Australia is within our reach," said Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator. "By holding General Conference in Australia, UFMCC members will live out our global vision, boost the Australian churches to the next level of growth, and enjoy the vacation of a lifetime — all for about $1,000 more per person than our normal General Conference costs in North America."

Based on the 1993 General Conference action, UFMCC staff have researched the costs associated with holding General Conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibit Centre at Darling Harbor. They discovered that, compared to holding General Conference in North America, the only additional cost for Americans will be approximately $1,000 per person in airfare.

The vast majority of flights to Australia from North and South America fly through Los Angeles, CA. Some go through San Francisco, CA, but there are few other exceptions. In July 1994, Qantas Airways quoted the lowest U.S. west coast round-trip fare at $998. Qantas also said that airfares to Australia on many airlines have been steadily declining since 1988. Therefore a reasonable airfare estimate to Sydney would be approximately US $1,000 plus a round-trip fare to Los Angeles.

"We have explored the possibility of chartering flights," said Rev. Elder Don Eastman, UFMCC treasurer. "However that is not recommended for several reasons: the great variance of dates of travel and the prohibitive cost of retaining one or more aircraft for the length of our conference, or a second chartering for return flights. In addition, we would have to make a pre-payment of $150,000 at least one year prior to General Conference."

Since General Conference will be held in a convention center rather than a single hotel, individuals will be able to choose from a much greater range of lodging options. Compared to recent General Conferences, Sydney offers lodging that ranges from less expensive to more expensive. Sydney is noted for its fine public transportation system, and offers great ease of transportation from hotels to the conference center.

In order to get the most accurate information on the lowest airfare and hotel rates available, the Fellowship staff will continue to contact travel agents, tour operators and airlines.

1997 will mark the first year that UFMCC has held its General Conference outside of North America. "The conference in Sydney will provide tremendous support for the Australian churches. It will lay the foundation for substantial growth in membership and visibility, and make a powerful symbolic statment about the UFMCC as a growing international movement," Rev. Eastman said, adding, "As Christians, we know the value of symbols."❐

U.S. Election Offers Hope

Although the results of the U.S. election Nov. 8 showed a turn toward the right, the election also brought some good news for gays, lesbians and their allies.

"The Democrats may have lost on election day, but we didn't," said Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator.

The elections produced several high-profile victories for the gay and lesbian community, with voters rejecting discriminatory ballot measures and returning vocal supporters to Congress. Anti-gay initiatives were rejected in Idaho and Oregon, marking a resounding defeat for anti-gay extremists who began the year threatening anti-gay initiatives in 10 states.

Twelve of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's 17 openly gay/lesbian candidates won their races, a 75 percent success rate.

In addition, Ms. Vicky Kolakowski, student clergy at New Life MCC, Berkeley, CA, ran on the Democratic ticket for a seat on the Alameda County Transit Board of Directors. She came in a strong second, with 23.5 percent of the vote, losing by 3 percent in a field of seven candidates. ❐

The staff at the UFMCC International Headquarters wishes you a merry Christmas. They are, from left, front: Ms. Elsa Martinez, Mr. Frank Zerilli, Ms. Dana Cagle, Ms. D.J. Bowling, Mr. Bob Heydt, Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Ms. Nancy Fackrell; back: Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Mr. David Martin, Mr. Farley Peterson, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Mr. Ravi Verma, Rev. Stephen Pieters, Mr. Nathan Meckley, and Mr. Erik Topp. Photo by Mr. Tri Tran

Merry Christmas from UFMCC

Dear Saints,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the denominational staff of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches! On behalf of the staff of the UFMCC International Headquarters and the General Council of the denomination, we want to wish you Godspeed.

Almost 2,000 years ago God gave our world a gift — that gift was the baby Jesus, who was God in the flesh. We, who are a part of the Christian tradition, celebrate that wonderful time when God dwelt among us. We remember angels raising their voices in glad tidings; Magi following a star and shepherds visiting a humble stable. It was the birth of the Christian faith.

This is the time of year when we also look backward and forward; backward to what has happened and what could have been, and forward to what will be. Let us, who are a part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, celebrate this new year looking forward to the blessings God will give us.

In Christ,

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry ❐

Southern Hemisphere Celebrates Christmas

For several World Church Extension countries, Christmas can be the warmest time of the year.

Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand will celebrate in their own ways this festive season. Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, who is now back in New Zealand, reports that each church has its own way of celebration. In Christchurch, this will take the form of a Christmas Eve garden service followed by cool drinks and coffee, before visiting the local street workers to hand out small Christmas presents and condoms. "It's strange," says Rev. Hein, "but both Rev. Greg Smith and I noted that even in the middle of summer people still like to sing the old and cold Eurocentric carols." ❐

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.

Editorial Board:
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator
Mr. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration
Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Editor

Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

Global Outreach

Elder Visits Santo Domingo

In early February, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, liaison elder, Rev. Judy Dahl, newly-appointed administrator of World Church Extension and Rev. Steve Torrence will visit the Dominican Republic. They will teach Samaritan coursework, and assess, in consultation with leadership there, what would form an appropriate program of training for ministry leadership and licensure. It has long been recognized that not all countries have ready access to education at college levels, and not all people have financial access to such education.

"We want to develop education that is cost-effective," noted interim administrator of WCE Wilhelmina Hein. The program will be developed in response to Rev. Howard Williams' repeated requests. Rev. Williams is pastor of MCC Santo Domingo. ❐

Rev. Paul Flies to Philippines

Rev. Ed Paul is flying to the Philippines in December after two weeks of cross-cultural training in Los Angeles, CA.

Rev. Paul will be working as UFMCC coordinator of church extension based in Manila, and assessing, as well as training, future leadership. Rev. Richard Mickley, pastor of MCC Manila, reports that the church in Manila was very excited about Rev. Paul's arrival. Rev. Mickley also reported intense interest from a new group of people in Quezon City, and the hope of starting a new group for worship there before Christmas. ❐

Russian Help Needed

World Church Extension is looking for dedicated professionals who have both a working knowledge of written Russian and access to computer facilities to prepare translated materials in the Cyrillic alphabet for printing, in consultation with the staff of the UFMCC International Headquarters. The translated documents are presently typed in Russian on A4 size paper. Interested individuals should contact the interim WCE administrator, Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, by mail at UFMCC International Headquarters, indicating their qualifications in this field. This is a labor of love, but may carry some financial compensation. ❐

Hope Rises in Mexico

Rev. Jorge Sosa, the new coordinator of church extension for Mexico and Central America, recently began dialogue on appropriate requirements for training clergy in Mexico and possibly beyond. This had led to further discussion between WCE and Samaritan College. At present, some courses are taught in residence in Mexico, but discussions indicate that there may be moves to formalize this through Samaritan in the near future, as an approved program of coursework.

In the meantime, a new political appointment in Mexico has been met with joy by the gay/lesbian community. The assassination of Mr. Francisco Ruiz Massieu, secetary-general to Mexico's ruling party, was a blow to the gay and lesbian community. Now a well-known lesbian has been appointed in his place. ❐

South Africans Interested

The pastors of two churches in South Africa recently reaffirmed their ongoing keen desire to affiliate with UFMCC. Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, interim WCE administrator, contacted Revs. Andre Muller and Tsietsi Thandekiso in October, and learned of their continued interest in becoming the first MCCs in South Africa. ❐

Atlanta Offers Much for Conference

General Conference 1995 promises to make the most of its location in Atlanta, GA — the gay/lesbian capitol of the South.

The conference will be held July 23-30 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel.

"We are delighted to be holding our conference in one of the cradles of the civil rights movement in the United States," said Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator. "We will be conducting a special gathering at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change, Inc. and laying flowers at his grave, which is located in the center."

The General Conference will also rely on the resources of the Center for Disease Control, which is also located in Atlanta. CDC representatives have been invited to participate in workshops and exhibits.

Atlanta is also the headquarters of the Cable News Network (CNN) and plans are already underway to assure plentiful television coverage of General Conference.

From the imposing majesty of Georgia's Stone Mountain Park to the historical districts of downtown to the fun of Six Flags Over Georgia, Atlanta has many attractions. In addition to museums, botanical gardens, and shopping centers, Atlanta boasts the Road to Tara Museum of memorabilia related to the Civil War romance *Gone With The Wind,* and the World of Coca-Cola, an unparalleled collection of over 1,000 items that recount the century-old history of the world's most popular soft drink. Atlanta is a first-class convention city that will host the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games.

For the first time ever, this General Conference will feature a separate low rate for non-delegates. For example, early U.S. registration for non-delegates is $180, for a savings of $28 compared to the delegate registration. Expanded programming for non-delegates is being offered.

April 1 is the deadline for early registration. To receive the early registration discount, registration forms must be postmarked before April 1. ❐

General Conference XVII

Atlanta, Georgia

July 23-30, 1995

"All Things Are Possible" (Mark 9:23)

The registration packets for General Conference XVII have been mailed out. If you have not received a packet and would like to have one mailed to you, please fill in your name and address below and return this card to: UFMCC GCXVII, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029,USA or call (213) 464-5100.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST/PROV _____

ZIP/PC _____ COUNTRY _____

Rev. Judy Dahl
Photo by Mr. John Graves

Rev. Dahl Hired for WCE

Rev. Judy Dahl was selected as the new administrator for World Church Extension.

She begins her position Feb. 1 and will be based at the UFMCC International Headquarters in Los Angeles, CA. Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein will continue to serve as the interim WCE administrator from her home in New Zealand until Feb. 1. Rev. Hein will also be in Los Angeles for a few days in January.

Rev. Dahl's duties as WCE administrator include fundraising, public relations, development and oversight of indigenous leadership and a variety of administrative tasks, including working with the UFMCC staff to set up a financial management system for WCE.

Rev. Dahl was licensed as a UFMCC clergy in 1979 and ordained in 1986. Since 1991, she has pastored MCC Ventura, CA. Her other MCC experience includes service as district coordinator of the Southwest District (1984-91); pastor of Chrysalis MCC, Denver, CO (1982-83); and assistant pastor of MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO (1980-82). Before earning UFMCC clergy credentials, she was a Benedictine nun (1966-68) and then a flight attendant (1969-79). She is proficient in Spanish. ❐

Samaritan Signs Accord

Chicago Theological Seminary and Samaritan, the educational arm of the UFMCC, formalized a dual enrollment program in Chicago, IL, on Nov. 18.

"This program is the first of its kind in which openly gay and lesbian people who are training for the ministry have access to non-homophobic theological education through Samaritan and also access to an accredited Master of Divinity program through Chicago Theological Seminary," says Dr. Mona West, academic dean of Samaritan. Dr. West will attend the signing of the agreement with Rev. Sandra Robinson, president and CEO of Samaritan.

Samaritan, founded in 1970, is the only institution in the world dedicated solely to gay and lesbian theological education. In addition to the traditional courses that most seminaries offer, Samaritan provides courses and seminars that cover sexuality and homosexuality in the scriptures and in the practice of ministry.

The accord represents considerable teamwork among UFMCC clergy. Rev. Robinson worked with Rev. Bradley Michelson to bring about the agreement. Rev. Michelson is a graduate of CTS and recently founded MCC of the Incarnation in Oak Park, IL. To celebrate the accord signing, Rev. Robinson preached at MCCI Nov. 20. ❐

MCC Dallas Picketed

Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX, was picketed Nov. 11-12 by Rev. Fred Phelps, a fanatical minister from Topeka, KS, who preaches a message of hatred for gays and lesbians.

Rev. Phelps led about 15 other protestors in picketing a funeral and a holy union at COH-MCC with signs such as "God hates fags" and "God's hate is great." He has gotten national media attention for picketing countless funerals of individuals who died of AIDS.

"Our strategy was that we would simply look like the normal Christian people we are and allow the contrast to speak for itself," said Rev. Michael Piazza, pastor. "People could see women and men inside worshipping God and women and men outside hating people, and draw their own conclusions."

He noted that neighbors and public officials rallied to support the church. "We got very good support from the city and the police department, and he got a great deal of ridicule," Rev. Piazza said.

He added that the protest did not hurt church attendance. More than 1,450 people attended Sunday morning worship on Nov. 13, when Rev. Phelps was expected to picket again, but failed to show.

Because the church is situated far from the road, it was difficult for the protestors to get near the church building, and they ended up looking like they were picketing a nearby gas station and steakhouse.

"Some people mistook them for anti-beef activists," noted Mr. Randy Spraberry, COH-MCC director of administration. "We had gone to great lengths to educate the congregation and we were prepared for a really unpleasant situation, and then it ended up being a comedy of sorts. They didn't achieve what they wanted, which was to provoke us." ❐

In Memory

Mr. Gregory P. Jones

Mr. Gregory P. Jones, dean of the conservatory at Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, died Nov. 13 of complications related to AIDS. He was 42.

He is survived by his mother, two brothers and a sister. Services were held Nov. 15 in Ft. Lauderdale.

Mr. Sean Kinney

Mr. Sean Kinney died Oct. 21 following a lengthy battle with AIDS. He was 35.

Mr. Kinney was a long-time member of MCC and active in various AIDS agencies in Los Angeles, CA. He was a close friend of Mr. Ravi Verma, UFMCC Director of Administration.

A memorial service was held on Oct. 30 with Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and Rev. Ken Martin officiating. Memorials can be made to MCCLA, P.O. Box 388, Culver City, CA 90232.

Rev. Philip Quinn

Rev. Philip Quinn, transfer clergy in the European District and member of MCC Manchester, England, died on Oct. 25.

Rev. Quinn had been diagnosed with lymph gland cancer in May. A native of Natal, South Africa, he served as a Roman Catholic priest for 27 years, initially in Northern Rhodesia as head of seminary, and then in several parishes in England. Rev. Quinn and his partner of 15 years, Ted, joined MCC in 1992, and this year started a new MCC meeting in their home in Doncaster. Rev. Quinn was also a faculty member of Samaritan College.

Anticipating Australia

Watch future issues of *Keeping In Touch* for articles on: strategies being used by local MCCs to raise and save funds for General Conference in Australia, Australians speak out about what the Sydney General Conference means for them, the history of gays and lesbians in Australia, and how to prepare for international travel to Australia. ❐

Around The Fellowship

Praises

MCC Topeka, KS, held a community-wide interfaith prayer service Oct. 30. The service was initiated by **Rev. Paul Evans,** pastor of MCC Topeka. Rev. Evans was also a featured speaker at a rally held recently at the statehouse in Topeka.

Mr. Frank Zerilli marks 20 years on staff at the **UFMCC International Headquarters** on Dec. 2. Mr. Zerilli has spent two decades as confidential assistant to the moderator.

Rev. Tyrone Sweeting, pastor of **MCC at Boise**, ID, has been selected by the *Idaho Statesman* to be one of the featured columnists on the Saturday religion page. After being ousted from its home on campus of Boise State University, MCC at Boise relocated in October to a church building owned by the Reorganized Church of the Latter-Day Saints.

Rev. Steve Pieters, AIDS ministry field director, and **Rev. Elder Don Eastman**, AIDS ministry executive director, and **Rev. Herbert Evans** led the MCC delegation of eight people at the U.S. National Skills Building Conference on HIV/AIDS in Atlanta, GA, in late October.

Sixty people attended the first service of **MCC of the Incarnation,** Oak Park, IL on Sept. 25. The service was covered by the *Chicago Tribune*. The church and its pastor, **Rev. Bradley Mickelson**, were also featured in several other Chicago newspapers.

MCC Louisville, KY, celebrated U.S. National Coming Out Day in October by paying off the mortgage on their church building.

Four MCC congregations were represented at the worship service held at the "Chapel in the Grove" in Eureka Springs, AR. As part of the eight-year anniversary celebration of **MCC of Living Spring** (Eureka Springs) and the five-year anniversary celebration of **MCC of Living Faith** (St. Louis, MO), the two churches enjoyed a roof-raising worship service on Oct. 9. Also in attendance were MCCers from Little Rock and Fayetteville, AR. An offering was collected and forwarded to World Church Extension and Global Outreach. ❐

Prayers

The pastor of **MCC in Managua**, Nicaragua was recently injured when he discovered a burglar in his home. **Pastor Mario Guttierez** suffered slashes to his throat as a result of the incident. He is recovering but still needs prayers. In addition, new anti-gay legislation in Nicaragua has meant that gays and lesbians may be more readily discriminated against. **Elder Larry Rodriguez** reports that "the gay and lesbian community is waiting to see what happens next." ❐

Transitions

Rev. Paul Graetz was elected pastor of **All God's Children MCC**, Minneapolis, MN. Rev. Graetz is a transfer clergy.

Revs. Pam Crocker and **Marion Fink** have been appointed co-pastors of the Mid-Central District's newest mission, **Gentle Spirit MCC**, Kansas City, MO. ❐

UFMCC Christmas Wish List

Computer equipment heads the Christmas wish list of the UFMCC International Headquarters this season. Members and friends are invited to send donations designated toward purchase of the following equipment (or just send the equipment!) Gifts should be sent to: UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

- 486 Computer (66 MHz) with 450 Mb hard drive and 8 Mb RAM
- 15-inch color VGA monitor
- 14.4K bps fax/modem
- Software and hardware for networking three to eight stations
- Multiple function photocopy machine

Top 20 Tithes - Oct. 1994

1.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	US $	5,706.86
2.	MCC Austin, Austin, TX		3,337.22
3.	MCC Washington, Washington, DC		3,207.10
4.	Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL		3,202.05
5.	MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN$	2,015.91
6.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		1,818.89
7.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,814.23
8.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL		1,567.62
9.	MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA		1,384.09
10.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,375.32
11.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		1,367.07
12.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		1,093.19
13.	MCC of the Palm Beaches, W. Palm Beach, FL		1,058.99
14.	MCC Key West, Key West, FL		987.12
15.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		908.22
16.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		860.50
17.	Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD		851.90
18.	Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola, FL		807.50
19.	MCC Omaha, Omaha, NE		788.30
20.	Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		714.46

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

Top 20 Per Capita - Oct. 1994

1.	MCC/Palm Beaches, W. Palm Beach, FL	US$	33.41
2.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		31.78
3.	Muskegon MCC, Muskegon, OR		31.57
4.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		30.10
5.	MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA		22.87
6.	Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA		22.68
7.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		22.59
8.	MCC of Living Faith, St. Louis, MO		22.49
9.	MCC Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	CAN$	22.37
10.	Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick, NJ		21.94
11.	MCC Austin, Austin, TX		21.34
12.	MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA		21.01
13.	Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL		20.94
14.	MCC Baltimore, Baltimore, MD		20.85
15.	MCC With A Vision, Longview, TX		20.85
16.	MCC Living Spring, Eureka Springs, AR		20.18
17.	MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg, PA		19.87
18.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		19.70
19.	Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI		19.69
20.	MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo, CA		19.57

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

Council's Teamwork Assists Local Churches

In an effort to better serve local churches, the UFMCC General Council used consultants to develop new ways of working in teams at the council meeting Oct. 13-18 in Los Angeles, CA.

Interchange International served as consultants over the past three General Council meetings, helping the council clarify its vision.

In addition, the council and elders focused on the big picture, with in-depth discussions of new structural proposals from the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee (CCCC) and the Elders' Task Force on Structures and Systems (ETFSS). The council also passed approximately 75 motions, nearly twice as many as usual, covering a broad range of topics. The following actions are highlights:

▼ Ethics-related policies were adopted regarding 1) unbecoming conduct of a sexual nature and 2) the inadvisability of otherwise untrained clergy offering psychological counseling.

▼ The ETFSS proposal was discussed, and elders drafted their response to it with input from the whole council. The elders will meet with ETFSS in January in Los Angeles. No decisions or changes in denominational structures or systems have been made at this time.

▼ Action on the CCCC proposal included a variety of items related to risk management, including approval of CCCC's recommendation to expand the clergy status form to include permission to do background checks, additional questions and a warning that failure to answer these questions honestly will result in de facto resignation of credentials; these changes are reflected in status forms due in December.

▼ District Coordinators met for a day to discuss concerns among themselves as district coordinators. They had time to speak about five major areas: pastoral leadership, district coordinators in relation to districts, legal questions and concerns, church information and status, and the CCCC. The district coordinators decided to meet for two days prior to future meetings of General Council.

▼ A 1995 General Conference budget of $220,000 was approved.

▼ A Disaster Relief Fund was established for MCCs that experience fire, earthquake, storm or other means of devastation. The fund will receive voluntary contributions. Donations designated to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. ❐

UFMCC Confronts Unsure Middle

(continued from page 1)

Rev. Maggie Tanis, MCC San Francisco, CA; Rev. Carolyn Mobley, MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX; and Rev. Dexter Brecht, Vieux Carre MCC, New Orleans, LA.

For the third year in a row, Rev. Cherry coordinated a meeting of approximately 30 national leaders of many lesbian/gay affirming Christian organizations. This leadership group met with the NCC Counseling Committee, which examines the issue of homosexuality and ecumenical relations. In addition to sponsoring the forum on the religious right, UFMCC worked with these leaders to staff a display table at the NCC meeting. ❐

London, Ontario Celebrates 15 Years

By Lorne Dubay

Holy Fellowship MCC celebrated 15 years of service to the community of London, Ontario, Canada on Sept. 16-18.

Sunday morning featured a service specially prepared for the occasion. This service was a combined MCC/Anglican venture in which we pulled out all the bells and whistles. We did indeed make a joyful sound unto the Sovereign! It made a definite positive statement to the London community of how God's all-inclusive love for all people can shine boldly and lovingly in the world when given the opportunity to do so. Once again, Rev. Troy Perry, UFMCC found and moderator, gave a sermon that will be talked about for a long time. The most touching moment for the writer occurred after the service while shaking hands with the people. The older Anglican women came out from the church beaming from ear to ear full of joy and congratulations.

The Bishop Cronyn Anglican Parament Guild presented HFMCC with a beautiful handmade church banner with appropriate symbols integrated into the design. It is a wonderful treasure to help remember the occasion and the love shown by these wonderful people. ❐

Need a Modem?

If any local MCC wants to get on-line to a computer bulletin board service, but lacks the modem to do so, help is available.

A member of St. John's MCC in Raleigh, NC, has volunteered to donate a modem to any church that wants one. For more information, contact Mr. Sam Daughtry c/o St. John's MCC, P.O. Box 5626, Raleigh, NC 27650. ❐

Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD

Cost is $15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All copy for Keeping in Touch Classified Advertising is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to: Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

MAIL ORDER

For a Free Catalog of Gay Pride Flags, Banners, Windsocks, and 80 other items, call Toll Free 1-800-774-FLAG and leave your name and mailing address.

"What the Bible Says and Doesn't Say About Homosexuality" by Rev. Nancy Horvath. Professionally produced, studio quality videotape or audiocassettes in attractive package. Great resource for churches. Excellent addition to personal library. Wonderful gift. Video: $34.95. Audio: $24.95. Plus $3.95 P&H per order. Credit card orders: 800-370-7483. Or mail payment to H&B Tapes, JDVMCC, P.O. Box 64996, Baton Rouge, LA 70896.

OPPORTUNITIES

SHARE YOUR SONG AND STORY. We are seeking religious song writers who are interested in being included in an **Anthology of Religious Songs**, written by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered persons. This anthology will print the music, and the story and inspiration behond the writing of the song. If interested, send Legal size SASE to: Covenant Music and Manuscript Publishers, Dept. K, P.O. Box 94501, Lubbock, Texas 79493-4501.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Are you a licensed UFMCC clergy looking for a church on the **"GROW"**? If so, Divine Peace MCC may be the church for you. We are looking for a part time clergy to lead our family growth. Please send your resume to: Divine Peace MCC, PO Box 71938, Madison Hgts, MI 48071.

Growing church has Full-Time Ministerial Support position available. Those interested send resume: Staff Development Team/Senior Pastor MCC-Richmond 2501 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220.